taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III, except the section of NH-8 (Beawar-Udaipur road). NHDP Phase-III is scheduled for completion by December, 2013.

(c) and (d) The four-laning of NH-79 from Chittourgadh to Neemach section is not included under NHDP. Four-laning of various road stretches is taken up keeping in view availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Fatal accidents due to traffic violation on NHs

1201. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drivers do not follow traffic rules on the National Highways and Expressways resulting into fatal accidents; and

(b) if so, the number of accidents that have taken place on National Highways and Expressways during the last three years and the number of casualties therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Road accidents and fatalities occurring on National Highways and Expressways are mainly caused due to a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather, cattle, fallen trees etc. Other factors that contribute to road accidents are increase in vehicular population, increase in population, heterogeneous traffic, modern high speed vehicles, increase in road space, etc. It is not possible to say that the accidents are caused only by the drivers not following the traffic rules. Data on road accidents due to 'drivers not following traffic rules' cannot be segregated. However, the total number of road accidents that occurred on the National Highways and Expressways in the country and the number of persons killed in these road accidents during the calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are given below:-

Year	Number of road accidents that occurred on the National Highways	Number of road accidents that occurred on the Expressways	Number of persons killed in road accidents that occurred on the National Highways	Number of persons killed in road accidents that occurred on the Expressways
2004	126396	3869	29439	5284
2005	123758	6236	26685	8754
2006	97429	4778	31717	6343

Brahmaputra waterways project

1202. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 308 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2008 and state:

(a) the zero date of Brahmaputra waterways project; and

(b) the targeted date of operationalisation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km) was declared as a National Waterway on 26.12.1988 and various projects for providing and maintaining inland water transport infrastructure there-on are being implemented by the Inland Waterways Authority of India. To make this National Waterway fully functional by providing least available depth of 2 metres between Dhubri and Dibrugarh and 1-5 metres between Dibrugarh and Sadiya for about 330 days in a year, navigational aids for 24 hours navigation and terminals at specified locations, an Action Plan was prepared during 2006-07. This Action Plan is targeted to be completed in 2009-10.

Proposal of Kerala for coastal highway

1203. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala had submitted representation for including the project proposal of coastal highway connecting Puthuvypeen to NH-17 at Moothakunnam in the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether Competent Authority of NHAI had visited the above road site in November, 2007;

(d) if so, the present status of the above project proposal;

(e) whether action would also be taken in affirmative on the above proposal; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation for coastal highway connecting Puthuvypeen to NH-17 at Moothakunnam was received from Government of Kerala for inclusion under Phase-VII of National Highway Development Programme (NHDP). The length of proposed coastal highway is about 25 km.

(c) The above proposal was discussed during visit of Chairman, NHAI to Kerala in November, 2007.

(d) to (f) The above proposal does not find place in the tentative list of projects approved by the Government under NHDP Phase VII.

NHAI project completion rate

1204. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: